

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

MGNREGA – Appointment of Ombudsmen for taking action on the observations of Social Audit and for redressal of grievances on a time bound manner - Orders - Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RD-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No. 142

Dated:21.04.2010

Read the following:

1. No. J- 11011/21/2008- NREGA Ministry of Rural Development Government of India dated 7th September 2009
2. G.O. Ms. 98 PR & RD (RD II) Department dated 09.03.2010 containing Social Audit Rules 2010.

ORDER

Govt of India vide their letter cited 1 above have issued direction under Section 27(1) of the MGNREG Act for appointing Ombudsmen for adjudicating disputes regarding entitlements under the Act.

2. Government of AP have started the process of social audit wherein wage seekers assisted by the social audit resource persons, conduct public audit of the works, expenditure and entitlements provided under the Act. Government of AP have formed Society for Social Audit, Accountability and Transparency (SSAAT) for this purpose. Social audits so far conducted have brought to light number of issues in implementation of the scheme, based on which, the systems of implementation have been improved. However, it is felt that a more persistent and deterrent action shall be taken on the irregularities pointed out by the social audits, for which need for a quasi-judicial body was felt.

3. In view of the above, Government have decided to appoint **Ombudsmen** in every district entrusted with the responsibility of examining all complaints of irregularities pointed out by the social audit and passing 'Awards' expeditiously. It is also mandated that in all future social audits, Ombudsmen will attend the Mandal Public hearing and entertain all irregularities found out by social audit as a complaint, conduct enquiry then and there; and pass 'award' within 7 days from the date of completion of the mandal public hearing.

4. Government prescribes the following procedure for identification of the Ombudsmen:

- a) District Collectors, in consultation with the District Judges will identify retired judicial personnel served in not below the rank of 1st Class

Judicial Magistrate. The candidates shall have impeccable integrity, a pronounced pro-poor attitude and shall fulfill all other requirements prescribed by Government of India in its Notification cited 1 above. Each district may send not more than 10 nominations. This list shall be received before 30th April.

- b) A selection committee constituted with the following will select suitable persons from the list sent by the Districts:
 - i. Chief Secretary – Chairperson
 - ii. Representative of Ministry of Rural Development
 - iii. Eminent Civil Society person nominated by Union Ministry of Rural Development
 - iv. Principal Secretary, RD – Member Convener
- c) After finalisation of the panel of Ombudsmen by the selection committee, the list shall be displayed on the website of Rural Development Department for comments from public. After examining comments if any, selection committee may finalise the list.
- d) The selected candidates shall be trained in MGNREGA before positioning them in the districts.
- e) Ombudsmen shall be paid Rs. 500 per sitting and shall be provided official transport for going to the Mandal Public Hearings of social audit. The cost of Ombudsmen shall be met from administrative cost under MGNREGA.

5. A copy of this order is available on the Internet and can be accessed at the address: <http://www.rd.ap.gov.in>.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

R.SUBRAHMANYAM
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (RD)

To
The District Collectors and District Programme Coordinators
The District Judges
The Commissioner, Rural Development, Hyderabad
The Director, EGS,O/o the Commissioner, Rural Development, Hyderabad

Copy to:

The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister
The PS to Chief Secretary to Government
The OSD to Minister (RD & NREGP)
The PS to Prl. Secretary to Government (RD)

//Forwarded: By Order//

Section Officer